AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A method for decrypting an encrypted digital data file, comprising:

receiving the encrypted data file; and

decrypting a portion of the received data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted.

AI

- 14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the partial decryption of the received data file is performed at a plurality of locations spaced apart at a predetermined interval on the digital data file.
- 15. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising storing the partially decrypted data file in a data storage medium or a digital data player.
- 16. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising decrypting the remainder of the partially decrypted data file.

Application No. 09/527,670 Docket No. 0630-0983P Group Art Unit 2171 Page 3

- 17. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the received data file is partially decrypted based on a predetermined encryption key.
 - 18. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising reading the stored data file from the data storage medium or digital data player and reproducing the data file at the request of a user.
- 19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising decrypting the data file based on a predetermined encryption key, and outputting the decrypted data file to an output line.
- 20. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the predetermined interval is a multiple or divisor of a buffer size.
 - 21. (New) A digital data decryption apparatus comprising:
 - a receiving unit for receiving an encrypted digital data file; and
- a decryption unit for decrypting a portion of the encrypted data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted.

14

- 22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the partial decryption of the received data file is performed at a plurality of locations spaced apart at a predetermined interval on the digital data file.
 - 23. (New) the apparatus of claim 22, wherein the predetermined interval is a multiple or divisor of a buffer size.
 - 24. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a data storage medium for storing the partially decrypted data file.
 - 25. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the received data file is partially decrypted based on a predetermined encryption key.
 - 26. (New) The apparatus of clam 21, wherein the decryption unit subsequentially decrypts the remainder of the partially decrypted data file.
 - 27. (New) A method for decrypting an digital data file, comprising: receiving the encrypted data file;

decrypting a portion of the received data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted;

storing the decrypted data file in a buffer; and

Application No. 09/527,670 Docket No. 0630-0983P Group Art Unit 2171 Page 5

reencrypting the decrypted data file.

- 28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the partial decryption of the received data file is performed at a plurality of locations spaced apart at a predetermined interval on the digital data file.
- 29. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising storing the received encrypted data file in a data storage medium of a digital data player.
- 30. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising decrypting the remainder of the partially decrypted data file.
- 31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the received data file is partially decrypted based on a predetermined encryption key.
- 32. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising reading the stored data file from the data storage medium and reproducing the data file at the request of a user.

M

Application No. 09/527,670 Docket No. 0630-0983P Group Art Unit 2171 Page 6

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising decrypting the data file based on a predetermined encryption key, and outputting the decrypted data file to an output line.